

DECEMBER 1, 1978

THIS WEEK NO. 48

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS-----.

NARR:

RALLIES AND A WALL POSTER CAMPAIGN CONTINUED IN CHINA THIS WEEK WITH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CRITICISM OF SOME POLICIES OF THE LATE CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG AND CALLS FOR NAMING VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING TO THE PREMIERSHIP. APPEALS WERE ALSO HEARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS. BETWEEN TEN AND TWENTY THOUSAND PERSONS REPORTEDLY GATHERED IN PEKING ON TUESDAY IN A PEACEFUL RALLY, CHEERING THE NAME OF TENG AND CALLING FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA.

THE RALLY TOOK PLACE ON THE SAME DAY THAT OFFICIAL CHINESE NEWS MEDIA PRINTED AND BROADCAST REMARKS MADE EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY TENG IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN VISITORS. IN THOSE REMARKS TENG COMMENTING ON THE RECENT WALL POSTER CAMPAIGN SAID THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION PERMITTED THE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS THROUGH WALL POSTERS. BUT WHILE GIVING HIS APPROVAL TO THE CAMPAIGN, THE VICE PREMIER ALSO SAID SOME OF THE POSTERS HAD GONE TOO FAR, ESPECIALLY IN THEIR CRITICISM OF MAO TSE TUNG. VOA CORRESPONDENT EDWARD CONLEY HAS MORE DETAILS FROM HONG KONG:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CONLEY

"SOME OBSERVERS IN HONG KONG FEEL MISTER TENG'S REMARKS AND TUESDAY'S RESPONSE INDICATE THAT THE CHINESE POPULACE IS READY TO ACCEPT ANY NEW PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FROM A PARTY MEETING THOUGHT TO BE UNDERWAY IN PEKING NOW. IN HIS REMARKS EARLIER THIS WEEK, VICE PREMIER TENG HAD SAID A MEETING WAS UNDERWAY TO DISCUSS CHINA'S FOUR MODERNIZATION PLANS AND TO SORT SOME THINGS OUT. MEANWHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNS THAT THE BOISTEROUS, HAPPY-TYPE RALLY HELD IN PEKING TUESDAY HAD SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC -- DESPITE THE NATIONWIDE COVERAGE GIVEN MISTER TENG'S STATEMENT. AND THE WALL POSTER CAMPAIGN IN PEKING ITSELF SEEMED TO HAVE SLOWED, PERHAPS AWAITING THE WORD FROM THE PARTY MEETING."

NARR:

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THIS WEEK CALLED ON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO GRANT POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THAT COUNTRY THE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIALS. THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION PUBLISHED A REPORT CRITICIZING PEKING'S SYSTEM OF POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT AND CONDITIONS IN ITS PRISON CAMPS. THE REPORT COVERS A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 25 YEARS. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL THOMAS HAMMARBERG TOLD REPORTERS IN LONDON THAT METHODS OF OBTAINING CONFESSIONS IN CHINA AMOUNT TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- HAMMARBERG

"THOSE ARRESTED HAVE LITTLE PROTECTION OF THEIR OWN SECURITY. WHEN AN ARREST WARRANT IS ISSUED IN PRACTICE THERE IS NO LIMIT ON THE PERIOD OF DETENTION. AND USUALLY THE TRIALS HAVE NOT STARTED UNTIL THERE IS A WRITTEN CONFESSION BY THE MAN OR WOMAN ARRESTED. WE ALSO KNOW FROM OUR RESEARCH THAT THE PRESSURE ON THOSE ARRESTED TO CONFESS IN MANY, MANY INSTANCES HAS BEEN VERY HEAVY AND METHODS HAVE BEEN USED WHICH, ACCORDING TO OUR STANDARDS, AMOUNT TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA WITH GREAT INTEREST. AND A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, DISCUSSING THE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA, SAID THERE HAVE BEEN SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY -- AS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

ITSELF HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECENTLY. AND HE ADDED THAT THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS IN ITSELF A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT REFLECTING WHAT THE UNITED STATES HOPES REPRESENTS AN INTENTION TO SEEK FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

-O-

ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU PUBLICLY DISCLOSED THIS WEEK HIS COUNTRY'S DISAGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA'S ALLIES IN THE WARSAW PACT ON CERTAIN POLICY MATTERS. THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT REPETATED WHAT HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD A MOSCOW WARSAW PACT SUMMIT MEETING. HE SAID THERE IS NO IMMINENT DANGER OF A WORLD WAR, THAT EXISTING ARMS ARSENALS IN EAST AND WEST ARE SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER. THEREFORE, AT THE WARSAW PACT MEETING, CEAUSESCU IS SAID TO HAVE REFUSED TO RAISE HIS COUNTRY'S DEFENSE BUDGET. IN SEVERAL STATEMENTS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM MOSCOW, HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO INCREASE MILITARY SPENDING BECAUSE THE DANGER OF AGGRESSION DOES NOT EXIST. THAT STATEMENT PUTS THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT IN CLEAR OPPOSITION TO OTHER WARSAW PACT LEADERS, WHO HAVE ACCUSED THE WEST OF EXPANDING ITS MILITARY MIGHT FOR AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES. THE WEST, IN TURN, HAS BEEN GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING EXPANSION OF SOVIET MILITARY MIGHT.

LATER IN THE WEEK, IN AN APPARENT REPLY TO CEAUSESCU'S CRITICISM, THE SOVIET UNION SAID THE WARSAW PACT SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSE POTENTIAL. (OPT) VOA CORRESPONDENT DOLPH HAERING HAS DETAILS FROM MUNICH:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- HAERING

"THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP SAID THURSDAY THAT IN VIEW OF THE ARMS RACE CONDUCTED BY NATO, IT IS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSE POTENTIAL OF THE WARSAW PACT'S UNITED ARMED FORCES. THIS STATEMENT WAS PART OF A JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBURO, THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE SOVIET COMMENTS FOLLOWED A DECLARATION

BY ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AT LAST WEEK'S WARSAW PACT SUMMIT THAT HE WILL NOT RAISE HIS COUNTRY'S DEFENSE BUDGET. AND LATER IN THE WEEK, THE ROMANIAN PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AND GAVE ITS FULL BACKING TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S POLICY."

NARR:

MEANWHILE, NATO WOUND UP A SIX-DAY CONFERENCE IN LISBON THIS WEEK AFTER APPROVING A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION ON STRATEGIC ARMS. THE RESOLUTION CALLS ON NATO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO BACK U.S. NEGOTIATIONS OF A NEW SALT TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT SAID SUCH AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE BALANCED, EQUITABLE AND VERIFIABLE. (END OPT)

-0-

ECONOMIC FIGURES RELEASED IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK SHOWED ANOTHER LARGE INCREASE IN U.S. CONSUMER PRICES. IT WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ONE-MONTH INCREASES IN LIVING COSTS THIS YEAR, WITH THE LABOR DEPARTMENT REPORTING ITS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP EIGHT TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT FOR OCTOBER. (OPT) VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID GOLLUST HAS DETAILS:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- GOLLUST

"THE NEW FIGURES MEAN THAT SINCE THE END OF THE SUMMER, U.S. INFLATION HAS BEEN RUNNING AT ALMOST A TEN PERCENT ANNUAL RATE. AND AT THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL SAID THEY UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR A TIGHT FEDERAL BUDGET NEXT YEAR, AS WELL AS FOR BUSINESS AND LABOR SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S VOLUNTARY WAGE AND PRICE GUIDELINES. WITH THE OCTOBER INCREASE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX PASSED A MAJOR STATISTICAL MILESTONE -- GOING OVER TWO HUNDRED FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT MEANS THAT A SELECTED GROUP OF FOOD AND CONSUMER ITEMS WHICH COST ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN 1967 NOW COSTS OVER TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS."

NARR: (END OPT)

LATER IN THE WEEK, PRESIDENT CARTER AGAIN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HIS ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- CARTER

"THE LAST TEN YEARS, WE HAVE HAD AN INFLATION RATE OF ABOUT SIX AND A HALF PERCENT, AND I THINK NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT WE CAN TO CORRECT IT. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED TO FEAR THAT IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING INFLATION, THAT THEIR LIVES ARE GOING TO BE

CONSTRAINED OR LESS PLEASANT OR PROSPEROUS IN THE FUTURE. MY BELIEF IS THAT TO THE EXTENT WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING INFLATION, THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF AMERICANS WILL BE ENHANCED, NOT HURT."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK, THERE WAS MORE DISAPPOINTING ECONOMIC NEWS. THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT PUBLISHED FIGURES SHOWING THAT THE U.S. DEFICIT IN FOREIGN TRADE INCREASED SHARPLY IN OCTOBER. THAT WAS A SETBACK FOR THOSE WHO WERE HOPING FOR SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE TRADE PICTURE TO HELP SUSTAIN THE RECOVERY OF THE DOLLAR. DESPITE THE NEWS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THEY SAW NO REASON TO CHANGE THEIR PREDICTIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE TRADE BALANCE NEXT YEAR. THAT CONFIDENCE SEEMS BASED ON VISIBLE INCREASES IN U.S. EXPORTS.

-0-

THIS WEEK NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT ANASTASIO SOMOZA AND HIS DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION BOTH CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTED AN INTER-AMERICAN MEDIATION TEAM'S PROPOSAL FOR A PLEBISCITE ON THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. THE DECISION BY BOTH SIDES CAME BEFORE THE DEADLINE SET BY U.S., DOMINICAN AND GUATEMALAN MEDIATORS. HOWEVER, THE BROAD OPPOSITION FRONT'S ACCEPTANCE IS CONDITIONED UPON CERTAIN GUARANTEES IT CLAIMS ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE A FREE AND HONEST ELECTION. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ALFONSO ROBELO EXPLAINED:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- ROBELO (IN SPANISH)

"PRESIDENT SOMOZA MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY DURING THE CAMPAIGN, DURING THE BALLOTING AND DURING THE VOTE COUNTING. AN INTERIM LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA DURING THE PLEBISCITE IS CONSISTENT WITH NICARAGUA'S CONSTITUTION. AND SHOULD MISTER SOMOZA WIN THE VOTE, HE WOULD BE FREE TO RETURN AND FINISH OUT HIS PRESIDENTIAL TERM."

NARR:

WHILE PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S PLEBISCITE PLAN DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM BOTH THE MEDIATION TEAM AND OPPOSITION PROPOSALS, IT DOES REPRESENT THE FIRST TIME THE PRESIDENT HAS SHOWED SOME WILLINGNESS

TO CUT SHORT HIS TERM OF OFFICE, IF THAT IS THE POPULAR WILL.

IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK, EHTIOPIAN GOVERNMENT PROCES RETOOK THE LAST GUERRILLA-HELD CITY IN ERITREA PROVINCE -- THE CITY OF DEREN, A MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD NORTHWEST OF ASMARA. THIS OCCURED AFTER AN OFFENSIVE WHICH WAS LAUNCHED TWO WEEKS AGO. UNTIL JULY, THE TWO SECCESIONIST GUERRILLA GROUPS IN ERITREA HELD EVERY MAJOR TOWN IN THE PROVINCE EXCEPT THE CAPITAL OF ASMARA AND THE PORT CITY OF MASSAWA. A MASSIVE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE BEGAN IN JULY AND MOST TOWNS FELL TO GOVERNMENT HANDS. IN ALL CASES THE GUERRILLAS SAID THEY HAD MADE TACTICAL WITHDRAWALS, WHILE THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMED MILITARY VICTORIES.

MEANWHILE, ERITREAN LEADERS CLAIMED DEEP SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE LASTEST ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE: A STATEMENT LAST SATURDAY SAID TWO SOVIET GENERALS, ELEVEN OTHER OFFICERS, AND TO TWO HUNDRED, TECHNICAL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE HELPING THE GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE, OPERATING TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER PROVIDING SUPPORT TASKS.

IN OTHER AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK, SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROELOF BOTH A MET IN WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE IN A NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE OVER THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA. THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA AND U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM. OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO PRODUCE THE PROGRESS THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO AVERT A SHOWDOWN IN THE U.N., SECURITY COUNCIL. VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK WILLEN EXPLAINS:

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- WILLEN

"SOUTH AFRICA IS GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO HOLD ITS OWN ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA NEXT WEEK AND IS STILL REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH THE SECURITY COINCIL'S DEMAND FOR U.N. ASUPERVISED ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR. IF SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT CHANGE THAT POSITION, AFRICAN STATES IN THE U.N. WILL ASK THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT."

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS -----, JOIN US AGIN NEXT ----- WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

WJL/RD/DL